

## Jim's Folly and the Mysterious Girl in Black Leather

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by [lefemmerouge2](#)

### Summary

Jim has been given the chance of a lifetime. He used the Krohnisphere to reset everything to the "way it was," back to square one. As they always say, with every magical object, there is always a catch, something that doesn't end up right. When Jim sees a girl in an all-black leather outfit, at school, he is surprised. When he learns, the following day, that she and Claire spent a night together, he becomes nervous and jealous. Although he is willing to do anything to bring Claire back to him, his plans are interrupted by time skips, making him start to act erratically when he tries to set things "right" during the time not skipped by the Krohnisphere. In the end, he learns something about time, himself, and what really matters.

### Notes

I am still ambivalent about the ending of “Rise of the Titans,” so I wrote this for fun. Spoilers if you haven’t watched the film. It is partially, on a very limited basis, informed a bit by what Chanda Prescod-Weinstein writes in *The Disordered Cosmos* in terms of how gravitational waves come about. For this story, let’s assume that the mysterious guest is 3-D too, even though she isn’t in the original series. As a heads-up, this is a crossover and an AU. I wrote this because I wanted to mess around with the idea that resetting everything to “normal” isn’t going put things back the way they were “originally.”

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

Jim felt relieved. Everything appeared to be working out. He remembered everything from when he had been the trollhunter, including how Arcadia Oaks and many cities across the world had been damaged, and the deaths of two of his friends. It made him sad every time he thought about them. The Krohnisphere had given him a second chance, with everything set back to square one. Toby was now the trollhunter, he had set up his mother and Stickler, and he believed he could make Claire like him once again.

Something disrupted these plans. Little did he know, but gravitational waves had moved across the fabric of space-time. These ripples occur when objects are in motion, with vibrations often coming from the collision of two neutron stars or from two neutron stars circling each other in a death spiral. In this case, Jim’s use of the Krohnisphere had caused time to reset itself and sent gravitational waves barreling across the universe, leading to a rip in space-time itself.

Riding his bike to school, he remained confident that everything would be fine, even if the events were slightly different this time around. He had already tried out for the school’s *Romeo and Juliet* play and would be alongside Claire. He would be playing Romeo and she would be playing Juliet. Toby looked at Jim, who was absorbed in his thoughts. “As you ok, Jimbo? You are zoning out a little this morning.” Jim laughed. If only Toby knew what he had been through. “Tobes, I’m fine, don’t worry about me. Let’s get to school.” They pedaled as hard as they could. Somehow both made it to Arcadia Oaks High School just before the bell rang. While he would have trauma from his past experiences, he considered it a price to pay so he could see all his friends alive and breathing.

Something seemed different, but he couldn’t put his finger on it. He overheard murmurs from fellow students about the “girl in black clothing.” Darci and Mary came walking by their lockers and were chatting about the new student. Awkwardly, Toby asked, “so, what’s this whole hubbub about?” Darci and Mary stared at him, confused. They thought that everyone knew about this new student. Then they remembered that he wasn’t always the best in being cued into social circles, gossip, and stuff like that. Darci sighed. She began explaining why everyone at school was so excited. “Its...this new girl...she’s really pretty...her brown hair is...a-mazing!” “Yeah, I know right, girl, she must have a sick stylist...or something.” Toby chuckled.

Despite what Darci and Mary believed, he knew a little about people, including that his friend Jimbo had a crush. He accidentally blurted it out. “Jimbo, you’ll have a tough time getting Claire to...” He cut himself off, realizing that embarrassing Jim would be a mistake. That would be the last thing he’d want. Before Darci or Mary could say anything, he added “...practice with her for the play.” He was glad that he had saved himself and his friend from possible humiliation. Darci and Mary looked at him weirdly. Mary said, “whatever man, see you in class” and walked off, with

Darci at her side.

Jim walked into Health class. While he knew that World History, Spanish, and Algebra were often during first period, today was different. The school's schedule had always been a bit complicated. It had taken some time for Jim to get used to it. As everyone went to their desks and sat down, Coach Lawrence made an announcement. "Class, we have a new student joining us today. If you could introduce yourself, Miss, that would be great." Jim eyed the woman, realizing that everything he had heard about her had been right. Her hair was impeccable, even though her outfit seemed strange to him. Even so, he didn't think it would be an issue. He could still become romantically involved with Claire...nothing would go wrong.

The new girl cleared her throat and introduced herself. "Hi, I'm Vanessa Doofenshmirtz and I just moved here. My dad is a...uh...scientist...I love hard rock, going on morning runs...and wearing black clothing...the usual stuff." Coach Lawrence clapped, along with everyone else, as she moved from the front of the room back to her desk. She hated introducing herself to people she didn't know. However, she knew she had to do it, so she could fit in. It was unavoidable, as she saw it, and her dad, of all people, had even given her some advice.

Nearly at her seat, she winked at Claire, who blushed in response. Jim saw this and had to do a double take, unsure if he had been imagining it or not. Had Claire liked girls the whole time? How could he not notice it? As he began questioning his own memory, Vanessa made her first move. She sat down in a chair, scooting into a desk across from where Claire was sitting. She whispered, "would you like to come over to my house...after school?" Claire nodded. Having this cool new girl be her friend would be wonderful. Making new friends was important for her.

Vanessa smiled. Jim took note. He couldn't believe a cute girl from who knows where had outmaneuvered him. This was supposed to be his moment, not hers, as he saw it. How had this been possible? He didn't recall her from when he had been in the trollhunter. Due to his use of the Krohnisfere, which reset everything, that timeline had since gone dormant. He wondered for a second if the Krohnisfere had somehow caused her to appear. He dismissed that notion as preposterous. He had convinced himself that Claire could still become his girlfriend, somehow, and he would try his best to make that a reality.

After school, which was a half-day for some reason, he caught up with Toby. After what had happened in health class, he was in a bad funk. "Tobes, I need your help with something...I like Claire...but I don't know if she feels the same way about me." Toby chuckled nervously. He wasn't sure if asking him for dating advice would be a good idea. Who was he to give that sort of advice? He didn't even have a girlfriend, himself. "Jimbo...I don't know...just talk to her...you are braver than me...I want to talk to Darci but I'm too afraid what she'll say." He grumbled. This reassured Jim, but not completely. He still felt jarred by what happened earlier in the day. He hoped it would get better the following day.

That night, Claire went to Vanessa's house. She was impressed by photographs of inventions tacked to the walls, and awards for those inventions, that filled the shelves. Vanessa explained how her dad was a brilliant scientist who had won many accomplishments for his work. She did not say how she and her dad had ended up in Arcadia. They had been enjoying a wonderful time in Danville when something ripped them through space and time that morning, causing a rip in causality itself. This had been caused by Jim's use of the Krohnisfere.

No one in the town, other than Jim, remembered anything from their earlier lives. For Vanessa and her dad, their memories had changed so much that they believed they had always been in Arcadia Oaks, with everyone in the town thinking the same. In fact, they had only arrived in the town that morning. Vanessa unlocked the door to her room to show her around.

She saw that Vanessa had CDs of some of her favorite artists and posters tacked to the wall. They chatted about what music each of them liked and had a conversation late into the night. Looking at her watch, Claire panicked. "Ah! I have to get home! My parents will kill me if they know I'm here!" Vanessa chuckled. She knew what would solve her problems. She pulled out a device from her pocket which her dad had made for her, warning her to use it only in emergencies. She ignored that, of course. "I can get you back home in a second, with a matter transporter." Sheepishly, she added, "and...here's my number, so we can stay in touch."

Claire smiled. She could not be happier that she had met such a nice woman. She wanted to thank her somehow. "Thanks for this, Vanessa!" She proceeded to kiss Vanessa on the cheek to her new friends' surprise. Fumbling, she didn't know what to say, other than handing her the don't-worry-inator, which would take away worries of anyone zapped with it, a set of black-colored tight-fitting Gothic clothing like her own. She fired the matter transporter at Claire and then waved goodbye, her heart fluttering with excitement.

Claire couldn't be happier. The device zapped her to the porch in front of her house. While being teleported to her bedroom would have been better, this was better than nothing. Nervously, she knocked. Her mom unlocked the door and stared at her. Clearly annoyed, she shouted, "Claire Maria Nunez, where were you at this time of night, young lady?" Not sure what to say, she blindly fired the weapon at her mom, who brought her in for a hug. "I missed you, mija. Come on in." She walked her to her bedroom and yawned. She apologized for her behavior. "I'm sorry, I don't what came over me." Claire hugged her. The fact that her new friend had a device to make her avoid punishment, made her glad, at least in this instance. She soon went to her bed and began to fall asleep. Before she did, she whispered "thank you, Vanessa." While she did not know that Claire said those words, Vanessa rested easily that night, knowing that she had met a loyal friend. Whether they became more than friends no one could tell at that point. As she slept, the door was ajar. Her dad looked in and saw her daughter sleeping soundly. "Aw. Sleep soundly, my little girl," he said softly and closed the door.

Sun shone across Claire's face. She opened her eyes slowly and looked over at her alarm clock. Once again, she had woken up before her alarm went off. Pressing a button on the clock radio, she disabled it and began her ablutions for the day. She stared at the Gothic outfit that Vanessa had given her. She began to get anxious. What if people at school thought she was weird and only copying the new kid's looks? She worried what other people would think of her, including the boy she saw in her class, Jim Lake, who she suspected might like her. She decided to forgo the outfit. However, in getting the last part of her outfit on, one of her hair clips hit the inator that Vanessa had given her the other day.

A blast from the device hit her and caused her to forget about her worries. Somehow it also changed all her clothes to shades of black, due to the "turn clothes shades of black" setting on the inator, that had been accidentally tripped. She now wore a purplish black jacket, a black t-shirt emblazoned with "HAMLET," a black-bluish skirt, grayish-black leggings, and black shoes. She strutted out of the house and onward to school, ready to get on her bike, convinced she could get there in the right amount of time. As it so happened, Vanessa lived in the house across from hers, in the same neighborhood.

Seeing what Claire was wearing, she chuckled. Playfully, she remarked, "I guess you wanted to copy my look today...you scoundrel." Claire did not know what she meant. Vanessa rolled her eyes and showed Claire what she looked like in a mirror she happened to have with her. Claire reacted in shock. This somehow counteracted the effects of the inator. "What...in the world happened to me? Did YOU do this to me?" Vanessa snickered. She couldn't believe Claire would accuse her of such a thing.

She tried to make herself clear. "No way, girlfriend, it was all you and your mad fashion skills." Claire grumbled. She realized she would be late. Making a good impression was so important for her that the time she got there didn't matter. "I have to change...NOW!" she declared. Vanessa held onto her arm to prevent her from going back home. She did not want to make Claire late for school either, in part because something about Claire drew her in. So, she tried to make Claire feel better about herself. "Nah, you don't need to do this...try it out for a day...see how it feels...if you don't like it, you can change back to your usual look tomorrow." This made perfect sense. Trying something out for a day made sense. What's the worst that could happen?

"Ok, fine. How am I gonna get to school?" Vanessa laughed. She pointed to her black motorbike which happened to be there. She loved riding it. It has been something, according to her "manufactured" memories, that dad had given her as a birthday gift the year before. "Uh, this thing. You wanna ride there with me?" While she usually would be skeptical about this, she decided to go along with it. She wanted to be better friends with her. She thought this would be one way to strengthen their friendship. She had some romantic feelings for her, which she hadn't fully admitted to at that point. "Sure," she said. "Hop on!" Vanessa shouted.

Both rode quickly to school, traveling faster than she had ever traveled on a bike. She was having the time of her life. On the way, she saw Jim and Toby. "See you at school, guys!" she shouted. Jim and Toby only saw her briefly and didn't notice the change in her outfit. Jim did see that she was riding with Vanessa, and it made him jealous. Toby teased him. "Man, how you are gonna compete with her...she is such a beauty." He complained. His friend had it right. He refused to believe he had been defeated in the contest for Claire's heart.

"I won't lose to some brown-haired upstart who wears black leather!" Toby scoffed. He didn't know why Jim was taking it so seriously. There were so many nice girls at school, so why did it have to be Claire. "It's ok, Jimbo...you can always be her friend...and there are so many girls out there in the sea...you have so many options." Jim stared at him, annoyed, and both continued to ride on their way to school, unsure of what would await them all.

Parking her bike and locking it up, Vanessa breathed deeply. She hoped she'd be ready for what lay ahead. Claire wasn't sure what to make of Vanessa. Despite this, she remained grateful that someone who had only met her the day before gave her a ride to school. She waved goodbye to Vanessa, promising to see her later, with Vanessa waving back. As she walked down the hallway, students were surprised and impressed to see her outfit.

"That's cool, C-Bomb," Darci said, with Mary giving her a simple thumbs up. Although neither one of them wanted to wear something like he, what she wore made them question themselves. It put the idea in their head that they needed to change their looks too. Both were very susceptible to peer pressure. Walking into World History class, she sat down by the window. Jim sat at a desk to the left of her, while Vanessa sat in a desk behind her. Jim looked at her and was surprised.

"Claire, what's the outfit all about?" he asked innocently. Claire chuckled. She thought of Jim as a nice kid. She suspected he had a secret life, aware that he did something with Toby from time to time. She wasn't sure what it was, but she vowed to get to the bottom of it one day. "Oh, I'm just trying this...out today...Vanessa gave me these clothes last night." When she said that it made him even more nervous. What had Claire and Vanessa been doing the night before? Had they...kissed? The thought crossed his mind and he dismissed it as absurd.

Even so, he started to become jealous. He remarked, "wouldn't you want to go somewhere with me...like to movie or something?" Claire stared at him strangely. Was Jim asking her out on a date? She couldn't understand why he would be doing this. They barely knew each other! Seeing her hesitancy, he hedged a bit, adding "...as friends, of course!" That made her feel better. Vanessa

became red-faced and annoyed when she saw this. Before she could say anything, Strickler began the class. "Today, we will be talking about the Peloponnesian War. Now, there were two..."

Suddenly, something cut Strickler off. Time moved forward at a rapid pace. When he opened his eyes again, he saw Claire and Vanessa having a fun time together, laughing and sitting in a park, having a picnic. It looked a lot like a date. As he tried to move in, Vanessa caressed Claire's head. "Oh, my fair Claire...I'm so happy I met you." Claire giggled back. She looked at Vanessa and grinned. "Here's to thank you for today, 'Nessa." She kissed Vanessa and then hugged her. This mortified Jim. What had happened to that history class? Why was he in a park? What was happening! He was completely bewildered.

He ran closer to where they were sitting. He came close to Claire, only feet away from her. "What are you doing, Claire? I thought you liked me?," he shouted. She cackled. Such a thought had once crossed her mind. Not anymore. She went with him on that date all that time ago. He had been so dull and uninteresting that only one thought crossed her mind: there's no way they could ever be together. "Ha! I did once, but 'Nessa is MY girlfriend...and there's nothing you can do about it."

Time moved forward even faster this time. He stood in a backyard. Strings, adorned with flowers, reached from a small house to a gazebo. Chairs were set up on the grass and faced the gazebo. It looked a lot like a wedding, although this one wasn't expensive or anything, but low scale compared to what he had seen in the past. "Vanessa Doofenshmirtz and Claire Rose Nunez, I now pronounce you partners in life!" the celebrant stated. He added, looking at Vanessa and Claire, "you both may kiss."

As both kissed, Jim ran down the aisle in a rage. How could she do this to HIM? Didn't she know who he was? He would do whatever he could to bring back Claire to HIM and no one else. "I am the Trollhunter, you're supposed be with ME!" he roared, drowning out everyone. Vanessa and Claire were perplexed. Neither one of them had any idea what he meant.

Toby shook his head. "Are you...ok, Jimbo? I'm the Trollhunter...and she's been with Vanessa for like three years now." How had it been three years! Where had all that time gone? He ran to Toby's side and pleaded for help. He dropped to his knees and held his friend's hand. He was desperate. He'd do anything at this point. "Toby, you gotta help me...time keeps slipping and the gaps keep getting longer...please!" Unsure what to say, he tried to comfort Jim. He had no idea why Jim was acting like this. Prior to this whole outburst, he had been so mellow. "Jimbo...I don't know what to..." Toby began.

Suddenly, Jim was fast-forwarded in time once again. He stood and looked upon a landscape which horrified him. It looked like someone had dropped a nuclear bomb on Arcadia Oaks. Everything was on fire and people were running in terror. A person pulled on his hand. An army of robots had invaded Earth. These machines could transform themselves and remained immune to everything that people threw at them. No one knew why. They had decimated everything in their path.

A hand tried to pull him behind a piece of metal which strutted out of the ground. This noble effort would, sadly, be worthless. A laser bolt hit him, going through his abdomen, causing him mortal injury. "JIMBO!" Toby, who had tried to save him from getting hurt, cried out. Jim groaned. Time had now come to a standstill. He could feel it, somehow. "Thank you for everything, Tobes...see you in the next life." As he held Jim in his arms, he cried. His sadness soon turned into anger. "These robotic murderers are gonna get it! They are not awesome for hurting MY friend!" He yelled loudly and charged out to the approaching army, with his magical sword drawn.

With his last bit of energy, Jim peered at the bombed-out landscape and saw his fearless friend fighting the robots, trying to destroy them with all he had. "Toby..." As he spoke his last word, he

thought it would all be over. Luckily for him, he had it all wrong.

He opened his eyes. He saw AARGH, Douxie, Blinky, Steve, Aja, Krel, and Vervatos Vex standing in the street, with burning buildings and wreckage around them. Claire was at his side. “Are you ok, Jim?” she asked sweetly. Jim scratched his head.

“Yeah, I am...I just had the weirdest dream...you were married to this girl who wore black leather...and you were angry at me...,” Jim said. Claire had no idea what he meant.

About to say something, the Krohnisfere hovered in the air and the time stone shot out. It began speaking to the horror of everyone assembled, who were prepared for anything, ready to fight to the end. Nari hadn’t said anything about this. “You have passed our test, Trollhunter, in seeing an alternate reality. Would you still like to do it all over again?” Jim shook his head. He would rather live in a ruined future which he could fix, than a reality where he knew what would happen next. It was a bit creepy.

Even though Strickler and Toby were dead in this reality, he could bear that, if it meant he could be with Claire...as long as he lived. “No. I want to stay here.” The disembodied voice spoke deeply. “Very well. The rips in space-time will be repaired. Farewell, Trollhunter. Best of luck.” The Krohnisfere laid on the ground, while the time stone went into the air. It sped through the Earth’s atmosphere and into deep space, never to be seen again.

He hugged Claire. “It’s nice to be back.” She hugged him back. Steve and Aja departed for Akiridion-5, along with Varvatos Vex. Aaarrgghh!!, Krel, Douxie, and Blinky walked back into town, with smoldering wreckage on all sides. Aaarrgghh carried Toby, continuing to sob uncontrollably.

Claire and Jim stayed in the back of the group and held hands. She chuckled softly, not wanting to offend Aaarrgghh or Blinky, especially, who were saddened by Toby’s death. They mourned Toby too but connecting with one another was more important at that moment. “So, what was this girl like, in your vision...alternative reality...or whatever?” He snickered.

He felt that there was no harm in telling her the truth. “She wore all black-colored clothes, and she was named Vanessa Doofenshmirtz...in that reality, you were her girlfriend and you ended up marrying her.” Claire was shocked. She couldn’t imagine anything like that ever happening. How could that be? All she knew was liking boys. A girl? It didn’t make sense.

“Uh huh...that is strange...I don’t even like women...as far as I know,” Claire remarked Jim thought that was strange of her to say that, but he let it slide. While he could see Strickler and Toby in the alternate reality, he could be with Claire in this reality without compunction. That’s what mattered to him. Whether she liked girls or not, he could care less. He had no urge to be possessive as he had in the other timeline, as Claire would be with him, though thick and thin.

On the other side of the universe, Vanessa felt tingling in her body. She scratched her ear. The orange-haired girl across from her, looked at her, annoyed.

“Some person...a girl...is thinking about me...I can sense it,” Vanessa declared. The orange-haired girl rolled her eyes. She couldn’t believe this. They were on her first date, and this is how she acted? It annoyed the hell out of her.

She came closer to Vanessa and stared her right in the face. “...what do you mean? I’m thinking about you, aren’t I?” Vanessa shook her head. She couldn’t understand why this was happening. It seemed like something she’d watch on some sci-fi show.

“Candace, I know you are... but this is someone else...somehow I can sense it...don't ask me how...all I know is that we need to get to a place called Arcadia Oaks...and soon,” she said, in a long-winded response. Sighing, Candace was actually satisfied with this answer somehow. With everything that happened that past summer, anything was possible.

The tale of their journey to Arcadia Oaks would have to wait for another day. While Candace would have grumbled that she would, again, have to ask her brothers for help, she knew they'd be up to the task, assisting her in whatever way they could.

## End Notes

I made the end of this story open-ended in case I ever am interested in write a story that follows this. I am leaning toward that right now, but since I have a bunch of other stories that I'd like to write first, I can't predict when that will happen. I classified this fic as mature because of what happens in the end of this fic, and the possessive behavior by Jim (which is understandable in the context of what he has gone through, although it is clearly awful as he is not respecting Claire's personal decisions, choices, and her bodily autonomy, to name a few problems). Even so, the rest of the story can be considered, I suppose, "Teen & Up." I incorporated some elements from the *Futurama* episode “Time Keeps on Slippin’,” and a robot army, I guess based off the one in *The Mitchells vs. the Machines*, where the robots are able to rebuild themselves to fight off the protagonists.

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